

# Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Spring 2020

## ▼ Submitter

### Submitter Name

Lindsey O'Connor

### Submitter Email

lindsey.oconnor@csuci.edu

## ▼ 1. Basic Details

### Activity Title

Social Research Methods Student Trip to Santa Rosa Island

### Activity/Event Date

TBD depending on availability of SRI bunkhouse

### Date Funding Needed By

2/1/2020

### Previously Funded?

- No  
 Yes

### Additional Proposers

None

### Academic Program/Center/Organization Name

Sociology

### Estimated total Course Fee revenue

0

### Amount Requested from IRA

\$5,225.00

## Estimated Number of Students Participating

24

### 2. Brief Activity Description

Describe the activity and its relationships to the educational objectives of the students' program or major

#### Brief Activity Description

I am asking for these funds to support a weekend trip to the Santa Rosa Island Research Station (SRIRS) in the Spring 2020 semester as part of students' learning experiences for my Social Research Methods course. The transformational impact a visit to SRIRS has on students is tangible for anyone who has had the privilege of taking students there. Yet, little quantitative data exists to demonstrate this transformation. My Research Methods students and I will be conducting a quantitative assessment of the impact a visit to the SRIRS has on students' feelings of connectedness with the university, with one another, and to nature. We will be utilizing a pre-test/post-test design to gauge how levels of connectedness change after a SRIRS visit. We will be using a survey tool my Spring 2015 Sociology Capstone students developed and pretested that semester. Russ Bradley and I have been in communication this semester about the project. I--ahead of the start of the semester--will work with him to refine the survey tool for his needs. I will then ask students in the early part of the semester to draw on survey methodology research to finalize the question wording and visual elements of the survey, and make a plan for survey implementation. Our current thought is for my students to survey SRIRS visitors dockside using a paper survey on their way to and from the station, and to do so for every student trip scheduled during the Spring semester. This trip will be a way for Sociology students--who typically do not have an opportunity to visit SRI (because the content of our discipline does not lend itself well to it)--to experience firsthand how a visit to SRI can change feelings of connectedness to the university, classmates, and nature, while simultaneously gaining firsthand experience with survey design and implementation (and to do so for an important cause: understanding the impact of SRIRS).

Please provide a list of administrative support work needed to fulfill the goals of the proposal. Indicate the estimated time of year and amount of time needed for each work item to the best of your ability:

#### Administrative Time

I will need to book travel for myself and students (January-February 2020), plan meals and purchase food ahead of time (directly before the trip).

### 3. Learning Outcomes and Relation of IRA to Course Offerings

All IRAs must be integrally related to the formal instructional offerings of the University and must be associated with scheduled credit courses.

1. Please list all classes that directly relate to the proposed activity.
2. For each class listed, describe in detail how exactly the IRA activity will be integrated with the class's activities, how often/ on what expected date(s), and to what extent

#### Learning Outcomes and Relation of IRA to Course Offerings

1. SOC 310: Social Research Methods

2. Below are the currently approved course learning outcomes for Social Research Methods. Typically, I ask students to develop their own hypothetical research studies around their own topic of interest and to write research proposals about them, but with funding from the IRA, students will be able to achieve SLOs #4-8\*\* in the context of a real study. Consistent with the University's focus on student engagement and the use of experiential and high-impact practices to facilitate student learning, funding from the IRA will provide students with hands-on learning experiences while developing a working knowledge of survey research methodology. Moreover--and while not a course learning outcome--participation in this project may foster a commitment to community-based research and community engagement more broadly (one of the University's

mission pillars) insomuch as the results of our study can be used to understand the impact the SRIRS has on its student visitors and potentially be used to generate more funding for the station. In other words, students will not only gain knowledge about survey research methods, they can feel good about using their skills for a cause greater than themselves.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate the basic tenets of the quantitative & qualitative methods used in sociology.
2. Read, understand, and critically evaluate empirical research reports published in sociological journals on the basis of its validity and conformity to ASA's ethical principles.
3. Develop testable hypotheses derived from a theory.
4. Identify and apply various research designs in new situations. \*\*
5. Create and critique questionnaires/survey instruments. \*\*
6. Identify which analyses are appropriate for various research designs. \*\*
7. Use statistical software (SPSS) to analyze data. \*\*
8. Interpret and draw conclusions from descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. \*\*
9. Apply various research methods to answer sociological questions.
10. Develop necessary skills for an efficient review of the sociological literature using computerized databases.
11. Prepare written reports according to the stylistic conventions of the American Sociological Association.

#### ▼ 4. Activity Assessment

Describe the assessment process and measures that the program will use to determine if it has attained its educational goals.  
**Please note that a report will be due at the end of the semester.**

##### **Description of Assessment Process**

I plan to use a number of assessments to determine whether funds from the IRA has helped my students and I reach their educational goals. For example, I will assign them readings on survey methodology (e.g., on question wording or visual design elements) and then have them draw on those readings to revise the survey tool (to assess SLO: Create and critique questionnaires/survey instruments). Similarly, after we have administered our surveys, we will review data entry and basic data analysis (skills taught in the required Statistics course that they take before Social Research Methods). Each student will clean, recode, and estimate basic descriptive statistics for two or three variables from the survey (to assess SLOS: "Identify which analyses are appropriate for various research designs" and "Use statistical software (SPSS) to analyze data"). I will grade them on this data cleaning and analysis and ask them to present their findings at the end of the semester (to assess SLO: Interpret and draw conclusions from descriptive and inferential statistical analyses). Additionally, I will ask students to write a reflection paper on the experience of designing and conducting our survey (i.e., what went well, what problems arose that could affect the study's reliability and validity), and to reflect upon why (or why not) a paper survey was the best methodological choice for collecting these data (to assess SLO: Identify and apply various research designs in new situations).

#### ▼ 5. Activity Budget

Please enclose a complete detailed budget of the entire activity. Indicate specific items that you are requesting IRA to fund.

You should use either the Regular Activity budget (for events on campus) or -- if your event involves any travel-- you MUST use the IRA Travel Budget Form.

You can download both of the IRA Excel Budget sheets at <http://www.csuci.edu/ira/application.htm>.

### **Activity Budget**

[IRA Travel Budget OConnor Fall 2019.xlsx](#)

## ▼ 6. International Trips

If your event is an international trip submitted through the Center for International Affairs, you must include copies of:

1. Complete Center for International Affairs/ UNIV 392 proposal
2. The program budget as submitted to the Center for International Affairs (to ensure congruency between the two budgets)
3. as well as a copy of the course syllabus

### **Center for International Affairs Budget**

### **Copy of Center for International Affairs Proposal**

### **Course Syllabus**

### **Certification**

I certify that students attending this trip are not previous or repeat attendees of a prior International UNIV 392 Trip

## ▼ 7. Sources of Activity Support

Please list the other sources of funding (including course fees), and exact expected amounts of additional support for the activity. Please indicate if there are no other sources of funding

### **Other Sources of Funding**

None.

## ▼ 8. Promoting Participation

### **What is your intended audience and how do you intend to market this to your students?**

Sociology 310 Social Research Methods Students. Were I to receive funding for this IRA application before the end of this Fall semester, I can create and post fliers informing students that my Social Research Methods course will be undertaking this project and include a weekend visit to SRI.

### **If this is an event that is off campus, how do you plan to bring back the benefit of this event to campus?**

## ▼ 9. Approval and Acknowledgement

### Program Chair/Director

Downey, Dennis

### Dean

Wyels, Cynthia (Arts & Sciences)

**Program Chairs and Deans may inform proposer of any staffing capacity needs or limitations (optional comments below):**

### Conditions and Considerations

- Artist/Performer/Speaker Fees & Honoraria:** On the Activity Budget, please indicate whether the vendor's price was set by you/CI Representative, or is a fee that was set by the vendor.
- Large Event:** For a large event, consultation with the campus Event Coordinator's office at (805)437-8548 is required.
- Field Trip:** Sponsor must comply with all policies found at:  
<http://www.csuci.edu/rm/programs/academic-field-trip-guidelines-and-forms.htm>. If approved, Identified Risks of Participation and Release Agreement must be submitted for each student to the Program Office (Public Folders-HR Forms).
- Involves Human Subject Data Collection for Public Dissemination -Requires IRB Approval :** If Project Sponsor proposes to conduct research with human participants, the proposal may be subject to Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) review. All research that involves any type of interaction with human subjects - from simple surveys to complex biomedical procedures - must be reviewed and approved by the IRB prior to starting the research. Data for "Public Dissemination" indicates interviews/surveys that result in a journal/poster session/newsletter, etc.
- IT Requirements:** If your activity has IT requirements, coordination with and approval from IT Administration is required.
- International Travel:** Requires International Travel application be submitted to Center for International Affairs. Include copy of CIA budget and course syllabus in your IRA application. Must utilize the University's Foreign Travel Insurance Program (FTIP) and follow all International Travel Guidelines listed at: <http://www.csuci.edu/rm/insurance/foreign-travel.htm>
- Risk Management Consultation:** Events that involve or engage students directly with a performer or artist (i.e. in a workshop or other than as a passive audience member) will require consultation with Risk Management. Requires proof of correspondence with Risk Management.
- Space/Facilities Services Requirements:** Consultation and coordination with Facilities Services is required.

### Acknowledgement

- I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate. Please note that late applications will not be reviewed by the committee.

## ▼ Chair Review


### Recommendation

- I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
- I DO NOT recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page

### Comments

This looks like a great project to help the university assess the impact of student visits to SRIRS -- and a great opportunity for

the research methods students.

 Dennis Downey Nov 11 2019

## ▼ Dean Review

### Recommendation

- I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
- I DO NOT recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page

### Comments

...with appreciation to the proposer for providing students this learning opportunity... and providing the university a means of assessing the impact of the SRIRS on students!

 Cynthia Wyels Nov 22 2019